Water Management Schemes

3199. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give new thrust to the innovative Water Management Schemes to be implemented throughout the country in view of the recurring drought, floods and watershortage in cities like Delhi and Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Recognizing the need for conservation and management of water resources, due emphasis for this has been laid in the National Water Policy - 1987. The policy provides various measures for better water management and conservation. However, water, being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for development and management of water. The Central Government provides financial and technical support to them in this endeavour. In order to improve water availability and water quality the Central Government is promoting rain water harvesting through water shed management programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting. The Central Ground Water Board is implementing a pilot Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" with a view to assess the efficacy of various recharge structures in some 'Over-exploited' and 'Dark' blocks of the country. The Government has earmarked an amount of Rs.25.00 crore during the IX Five Year Plan for the scheme.

The Ministries of Rural Development and Agriculture are also implementing various programmes in the country having water conservation component. These programmes are:-

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

2. Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Project.

3. Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchment of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)

4. Watershed Development Project for Control of Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA) in North-Eastern India.

5. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)

6. Desert Development Programme (DDP)

7. Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP)

With a view to promoting roof top rain water harvesting, the Ministry of Water Resources has proposed to the Ministry of Urban Development to consider enactment of suitable legislation for provision of roof top rain water harvesting in cities, Accordingly, the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority (MMDA) has issued regulations for conservation of roof top rain water. Delhi Government has also decided to make water harvesting compulsory in all new residential buildings, group housing societies and plotted residential areas of over 500 sq. mts.